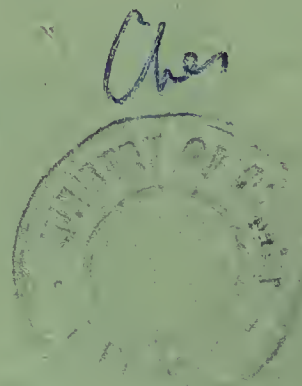


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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF NORTHWICH



REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and the

Chief

Public Health Inspector

for the Year 1962

NORTHWICH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



R E P O R T
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
and
THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
for the
YEAR 1962

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF NORTHWICH

Chairman of the Council : Councillor O.R. Walmsley, J.P.

HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman : Councillor H.S. Mather, C.C.

Councillor T. Alcock	Councillor R. P. Porter
" Mrs. E. Bowden	" G. Royle
" H. F. Ellis	" R. F. Slater
" S. Hamlett	" S. Tomlinson
" Miss M. Hassall	" O. R. Walmsley
" E. Hopkins, J.P.	" K. Wilkinson
" Rev. Canon A. W.	" S. Williams
Maitland-Wood, M.A.	" S. Worrall
" C. Moore	" W. D. Yarwood, J.P., C.C.
" D. Nolan	" W. J. Young
" C. H. Packer	

S T A F F

Medical Officer of Health

W. S. Slater, M.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. (Retired-May, 1962)

F. Seymour, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Appointed-August, 1962)

Other Appointments The Medical Officer of Health is also Medical Officer of Health for Northwich Rural District Council, Winsford Urban District Council, and Middlewich Urban District Council, and Divisional Medical Officer.

Clerical Assistant

Mrs. M. Bird

(Services shared with other three Mid-Cheshire Districts)

Chief Public Health Inspector

T. Baines, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., Cert. R.S.I.,
Meat & Other Foods

Additional Public Health Inspector

F. Johnson, Cert. R.S.I., Meat and Other Foods

Clerical Assistant

Mrs. M. McGowan

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF NORTHWICH

Tel: Northwich 4251/2

Hartford Hill,
Darwin Street,
NORTHWICH,
Cheshire.

July, 1963.

To: The Chairman and Members of the
Northwich Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the environmental health and sanitary circumstances of the Council's district for the year 1962.

In it are various recommendations which, if accepted, will inevitably increase the work of the Public Health Inspectors. However, I hope that the Council will support an increase in the work carried out under the Food Hygiene Regulations, Clean Air Act, and especially in achieving, if at all possible, an increase in the rate of "improvement" of sub-standard houses. The present staff are experiencing difficulties in giving adequate attention to matters of routine Public Health inspection, but an O. & M. team has recently surveyed the work of the Council staff, and consideration of the appointment of a further Public Health Inspector has been deferred until the completion of this survey.

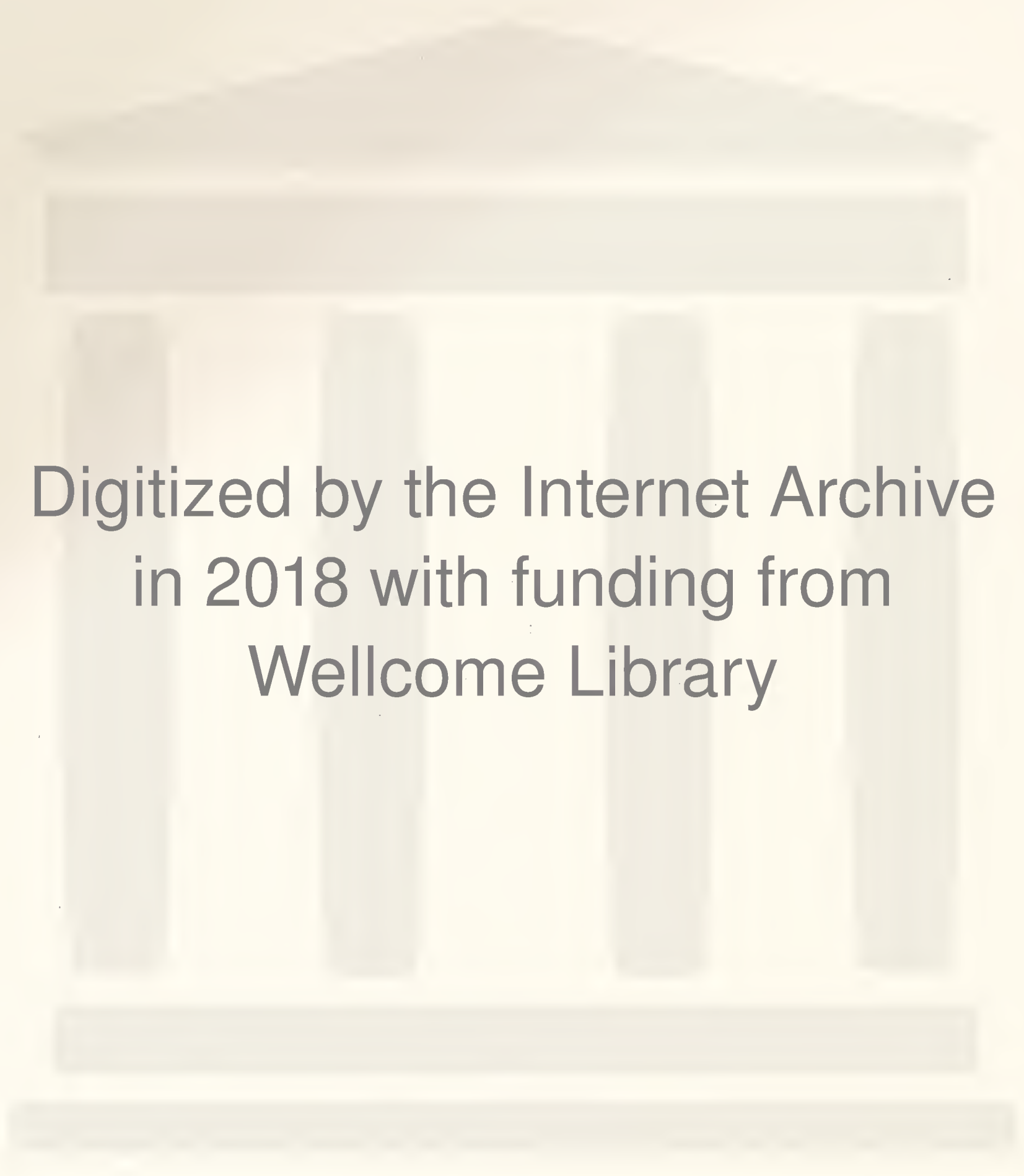
I would like to express my appreciation to Mr. Baines, the staff of the Public Health Department and the Council's Chief Officers for their co-operation and the help they have given me during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

F. SEYMOUR

Medical Officer of Health.



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SECTION IGENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICS(1) GENERAL STATISTICS

Population (estimated mid-year 1962)	19,530
Area (acres of district)	2,626
Number of inhabited dwellings	6,514
Rateable Value of Area	£478,183
Product of Penny Rate, 1962/63	£1,900

Comparative Statistics - 1961/62

	Year	
	1961	1962
Population	19,440	19,530
Rateable Value	£451,504	£478,183
Product of Penny Rate	£1,830	£1,900
Number of inhabited dwellings	6,509	6,514

(2) VITAL STATISTICS

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	144	129	273
Illegitimate	10	7	17

Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 population 14.8

*Corrected Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population 15.0
(Comparability Factor 1.01)

Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total births 5.9

* See Page 2

Infant Deaths

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age:

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	7	4	11
Illegitimate	1	-	1

Infant Mortality Rates

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 total live births	41.8
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks) per 1,000 total live births	17.2
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week) per 1,000 total live births	17.2
Perinatal Mortality Rate (Still births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)	30.6

Maternal Mortality (including abortion)

Maternal deaths	Nil
-----------------	-----

Deaths

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
All causes	130	121	251
Death Rate per 1,000 population			12.8
*Corrected Death Rate per 1,000 population (Comparability factor 1.04)			13.4

* NOTE

The corrected birth and death rates are those which are obtained when the crude local rates are adjusted to make allowance for the way in which the sex and age distribution of the local population differs from that for England and Wales. The corrected rates are comparable with the crude rates for England and Wales, and the corresponding adjusted rates for any other area.

Causes of Death

As will be seen from the following table the two principal causes of death were diseases of the heart and circulation which caused approximately 55% of the deaths, and cancer which caused approximately 18%.

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Syphilitic disease	1	-	1
2. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	4	5	9
3. Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus	6	1	7
4. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	6	6
5. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	5	5
6. Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	9	9	18
7. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	-	1
8. Diabetes	1	1	2
9. Vascular lesions of nervous system	12	30	42
10. Coronary disease, angina	23	12	35
11. Hypertension with heart disease	3	1	4
12. Other heart disease	23	23	46
13. Other circulatory disease	8	4	12
14. Influenza	1	1	2
15. Pneumonia	7	5	12
16. Bronchitis	11	2	13
17. Other diseases of respiratory system	2	1	3
18. Ulcer of stomach & duodenum	3	2	5
19. Gastritis, enteritis & diarrhoea	1	-	1
20. Nephritis and nephrosis	-	1	1
21. Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-	1
22. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-
23. Congenital malformations	1	2	3
24. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	4	8	12
25. Motor vehicle accidents	2	-	2
26. All other accidents	4	2	6
27. Suicide	2	-	2
	130	121	251

S E C T I O N I IHEALTH SERVICES(1) HOSPITAL SERVICES

The Northwich Urban District lies within the area of the Manchester Regional Hospital Board whose offices are at Cheetwood Road, Manchester, 8. Telephone number - Deansgate 6441.

(2) LABORATORY FACILITIES

Specimens and samples taken by the Health Department are submitted for examination at the Chester Public Health Laboratory.

(3) AMBULANCE SERVICE

The ambulance service is provided by the County Council and is under radio control from central control at County Hall, Chester. All 999 calls made by members of the public are immediately connected to this central control. The arrangement for non-urgent calls is that the patient or general practitioner should ring the Northwich Depot - Telephone number : Northwich 3355.

(4) MIDWIFERY AND HOME NURSING

This service is provided by the Cheshire County Council by the under-mentioned nurses covering the district:-

NATURE OF THE ARRANGEMENTS IN THE AREA

<u>District Served</u>	<u>Name & address of Nurse</u>	<u>Telephone No.</u>
Witton Ward	Mrs. I. Owen, Dinastre, Lime Avenue, Leftwich	Northwich 3093
Castle Ward	Mrs. Hibbert, 2, Dyar Terrace, Winnington	Northwich 4529
Witton & Castle Ward Relief	Mrs. E. T. Dorman, Arderne House, Hodge Lane, Hartford	Northwich 4513
Northwich	Mr. R. Evans, 15, Woodside Terrace, Leftwich	Northwich 3310

<u>District Served</u>	<u>Name & Address of Nurse</u>	<u>Telephone No.</u>
Hartford & Castle	Mrs. P. Edwards, 28, Stones Manor Lane, Hartford	Northwich 4737
Leftwich	Mrs. W. Place, 22, Fairfield Road, Leftwich	Northwich 3050
Witton, Winnington and Northwich	Miss D. Price, 38, Water Street, Northwich	Northwich 2314

(5) HEALTH VISITORS

The Health Visitors for the Northwich Urban District are:-

<u>District</u>	<u>Name & Address</u>	<u>Telephone No.</u>
Castle, Winnington and Greenbank	Mrs. Conlin, Darland House, Winnington Hill, Northwich	Northwich 4643
Northwich town including London Road & Witton Lostock (part of)	Miss Owen, Parkfield Clinic, Middlewich Road, Northwich	Northwich 2186
Leftwich	Miss A. Gratrix, Child Welfare Centre, 85, Wheelock Street, Middlewich	Middlewich 165

(6) CHILD WELFARE CENTRES

<u>Centre</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Sessions</u>
Northwich	Darland House Clinic, Winnington Hill, Northwich	each Tuesday afternoon 2 - 4 p.m.
Northwich	Parkfield Clinic, Middlewich Road, Northwich	each Thursday afternoon 2 - 4 p.m.
Leftwich	The Farm, Old Hall Estate, Leftwich	2nd & 4th Tuesdays 2 - 4 p.m.
Lostock	Tennis Pavilion, I.C.I. Lostock Works	2nd & 4th Wednesdays 2 - 4 p.m.

Welfare and Proprietary foods are sold to mothers attending the Clinics.

(7) Information concerning the other County Health Services in the area such as Home Help, Chiropody Service, Care and After Care equipment etc., can be obtained from the Divisional Medical Officer at Hartford Hill, Darwin Street, Northwich. Telephone number - Northwich 4251/2.

(8) OLD PEOPLE'S CLUBS

<u>Club</u>	<u>Date and Time</u>
Castle & Winnington Old Friends' Club, Barbers Lane, Queensgate.	Tuesdays - 2.30 p.m.
Lostock Gralam Monday Club, Lostock Social Club.	Alternate Mondays - 2.30 p.m.
Winnington House Veterans Club, Winnington House.	Daily Monday - Saturday 2 p.m. onwards
Leftwich Estate Over 60's Club, Farm of the Good Shepherd.	Alternate Wednesdays - 2.30 p.m.
Witton - Darby & Joan Club, Bourne Methodist School Room, Witton Street, Northwich.	Mondays - 2 p.m.
Darby & Joan Club, W.V.S. Civil Defence Centre, Hayhurst Street, Northwich.	Thursdays - 2.15 p.m.
Northwich Parish Church, Pensioners' Association, Church Institute, Northwich.	Afternoons

S E C T I O N IIINATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948-1951Section 47

Under this Section when persons (a) are suffering from grave chronic disease or, being aged, infirm or physically incapacitated, are living in insanitary conditions, and (b) are unable to devote to themselves, and are not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention, the local authority may apply to a court of summary jurisdiction for an Order to remove the person to a suitable place.

Section 50

Under this Section the District Council has the duty to arrange for the burial of any person who has died in their area, if no suitable arrangements for the disposal of the body are being made.

It was not necessary to take any action under either of these Sections during the year.

SECTION IVPREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE(1) NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following are the infectious diseases notified for the years 1961 and 1962.

Disease	Cases Notified	
	1961	1962
Acute Pneumonia	2	8
Dysentery	-	1
Measles	272	185
Meningitis	-	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1	3
Scarlet Fever	28	12
Whooping Cough	9	-

The number of patients on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the years:-

<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1961</u>	<u>1962</u>
101	106	79	66	80	75	81	81	81	79	70	55

(2) B.C.G. PROTECTION AGAINST TUBERCULOSIS

In addition to the B.C.G. protection against tuberculosis as carried out at the local Chest Clinic on actual contacts to cases of tuberculosis and the vaccination of new-born babies at some maternity hospitals in Manchester, the parents of school children of the 12 - 13 years age group in the area are offered this form of protective treatment. The response to date on the part of the parents to take advantage of this protection for their children has been good.

(3) DIPHTHERIA/WHOOPING COUGH/TETANUS

The immunisation rate for Diphtheria can only be considered satisfactory when 75 - 80% of the child population is adequately protected. "Adequately protected" implies immunisation during the first twelve months of life, with booster injections at school entry and again at eight to nine years.

In the Mid-Cheshire Division it would appear that parents on the whole are not having their children immunised early enough and, in addition, only a small proportion are making arrangements for their children to receive a booster injection. The Divisional Health Committee is taking steps to improve the situation and it is hoped that parents will do everything in their power to secure a satisfactory immunisation rate for the area.

S E C T I O N V

SANITARY INSPECTION AND SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

(1) VISITS BY PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS

Housing Inspections

	1962
Number of visits & revisits to houses under Public Health Acts	256
Number of visits & revisits to houses under Housing Acts	325
Visits to houses under Rent Acts 	3
Visits to houses in connection with Improvement Grants ...	152

Inspection of Food and Food Premises

Visits to Butchers' shops 	128
Visits to Fish shops 	17
Visits to Grocers' shops 	85
Visits to Ice-Cream premises 	6
Visits to Food Preparing premises 	30
Visits to Restaurants 	28
Visits to Bakehouses and Confectioners 	42
Visits to Dairies 	4
Visits to Slaughterhouses 	998

Infectious Disease, Rodent & Vermin

Number of houses inspected for vermin 	23
Number of rooms disinfested 	39
Revisits 	40
Visits where Infectious Disease has occurred 	11
Visits in connection with Rodent Control 	465

Other Visits

Visits and Inspections of Factories 	27
Visits in connection with Water supply 	6
Interviews 	378
Miscellaneous visits 	63
Visits & Observations re Atmospheric Pollution 	49
Hairdressers and Barbers 	19
Visits & Inspections re Refuse Collection & Disposal 	465

(1) WATER SUPPLY

The water services are under the control of the Mid and South East Cheshire Water Board.

During the course of the year, the Water Board submitted for information copies of the bacteriologist's reports of samples of water taken in the Northwich Urban District.

Of the 52 samples taken 10 were not considered wholly satisfactory. These 10 samples occurred on three separate occasions. The first, in January, was the only one of the 10 to show any faecal coli, there being 1 present in 100 ml. Subsequent re-sampling proved satisfactory and it is thought that the bacteria resulted from contamination during sampling. A suspicious sample occurred in October at Greenbank, but subsequent samples proved satisfactory. In December, in the Castle area, a suspicious sample was obtained and 7 further samples taken in connection with this were also doubtful. However, the coliform organisms isolated were not of the faecal type and it was considered that they were associated with algal growths in the mains. In each of the incidents the Water Board has co-operated fully with the Department and in the last case carried out flushing and chlorination of the mains concerned. As a result of this, follow-up samples in the Castle area were satisfactory.

It is not considered that there has been any danger to the health of the Public at any time, but it is a situation which requires close observation and this the Water Board is doing.

The water in the district is not liable to have plumbo-solvent action.

There are no stand pipes in the Urban District.

(2) PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS

Swimming attendances for the year were 90,796, with receipts at £3,166. In the last ten years attendances have doubled and receipts are up by over £1,000.

In addition to use by the general public, classes of school children attend from April to December to receive instruction in swimming. Parties from the Rehabilitation Centre, Oakmere Hall, also visit the baths as a part of their rehabilitation programme.

The Northwich Amateur Swimming Club hold swimming galas, water-polo matches and give instruction in swimming to members.

The water in the pool is continuously filtered, chlorinated and heated. The chlorine residual in the pool is checked by the attendants

every two hours using a colorimeter set. Likewise the alkalinity is checked twice per day.

Two samples of water taken early in the year for bacteriological examination were not satisfactory. Following investigations of the control of chlorination, the situation has been satisfactory, and nine subsequent samples taken over the remainder of the year for bacteriological and chemical analysis were satisfactory.

Hot baths are available to the public but the number using them is declining due no doubt to the gradual replacement or improvement of the sub-standard houses in the town. There are a number of elderly and physically handicapped persons in the town who do have difficulty in getting into a bath. It might be, that if the Council replaced one or two of the older hot baths at the pool with a thermostatically controlled shower unit and seat, such persons would find the facilities of considerable benefit.

Paddling Pool -- Church Walk

This paddling pool continues to be used during the summer months and is filled and emptied twice weekly, the water being treated with sodium hypochlorite.

(3) SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The 30-inch diameter sewer, which was referred to in last year's report, was constructed in Chester Way as a preliminary to the construction of a further extension which will be constructed from Chester Way, through the Market, Crown Street, across High Street to Barons Quay, where a new pumping station will be constructed. The new pumping station will be so constructed to allow for any subsidence which may take place in the future. This scheme is under preparation and it is expected that the work will be commenced in 1963.

The disposal of sewerage is by sedimentation and percolating circulating filters, and satisfactory effluents were maintained throughout the year.

(4) RIVER POLLUTION

At the present time a certain amount of sewerage finds its way into the rivers. This has been mainly due to the collapse of sewers in the past. It is well-known that Northwich has been subject to subsidence but with the cessation of wild brine pumping in the town the position has become stabilised. This fact, together with the proposed new sewerage system will lead to a considerable improvement.

(5) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

The position regarding closet accommodation is unchanged. The two closets which exist in the district are treated with chemicals.

(6) REFUSE COLLECTION

In the latter part of the year a new Dennis 22/30 cu.yd. Paxit Major III vehicle was delivered. Some re-organisation of the collection service was necessary as a vehicle of this size cannot negotiate the narrow back streets. It is hoped that with the introduction of this vehicle the refuse collection service will be brought to nearly weekly.

Provision of Dustbins

Dustbins are provided by the Council and are charged to the Rate Fund. During 1962 approximately 350 bins were provided.

(7) DISPOSAL OF REFUSE

Tipping continued on an area situated off Manchester Road. There were, at the beginning of the year, misgivings regarding the availability of suitable covering material. Fortunately, however, during the greater part of the year unlimited covering material became available from construction works of the new motor way and as a result it was possible to carry out "full" controlled tipping. It was unnecessary to spray or treat for any type of vermin and although the tip is situated immediately adjacent to one of the town's main roads and to dwelling houses, at no time was there any nuisance other than the occasional blowing of dry sand.

(8) CANAL BOATS

The headquarters of the British Waterways Southern Fleet is situated in Northwich and their boats are registered with this Authority. British Waterways have developed quite an up-to-date repair yard on the river near the centre of the town, between the two swing bridges.

There is a total of 99 boats registered with this Authority, including one new boat registered during 1962.

(9) LICENSED CARAVAN SITES

There are no licensed caravan sites in Northwich, but difficulties have arisen from time to time with occasional hawkers' caravans which park for short periods within the district. It has not been necessary to take any statutory action to deal with them.

(10) RODENT CONTROL

A rodent control service is provided, and one man employed as a Rodent Operative. The service to householders is free and inspections are also carried out on business premises in cases of complaint. However if regular complaints of infestation are received from any such premises the occupiers are given details of the Council's contract service. The number of contracts held is small, as there are private

firms providing this service in the district, particularly to one large industrial firm.

There have been no incidents of importance arising in connection with rodent control during the year in question, and there has been no evidence of any build-up of infestation in any part of the district.

No treatment for rats in sewers has been carried out as it has been found by experience that as the sewers become surcharged by storm water infestation by rats is discouraged.

A summary of action taken during the year is given below:-

RODENT CONTROL DURING 1962

	TYPE OF PROPERTY			
	Local Auth- ority	Dwelling Houses	All other (including business premises)	
1. Number of properties inspected as a result of notification	1	76	36	-
2. Number of such properties found to be infested by :				
Common Rat	1	66	29	-
Ship Rat	-	-	-	-
House Mouse	-	8	4	-
3. Number of properties inspected in the course of survey under the Act	5	-	59	-
4. Number of such properties found to be infested by :				
Common Rat	5	-	15	-
Ship Rat	-	-	-	-
House Mouse	-	-	8	-
5. Total inspections carried out - including re-inspections	21	207	237	-
6. Number of infested properties treated by Local Authority	6	74	56	-
7. Number of 'Block Control' schemes carried out	NIL			

(11) DISINFESTATION OF PREMISES

Treatment for ants was discontinued last year, and although some complaints were received most of the complainants were satisfied to receive advice on how to deal with their particular infestation. In four cases however circumstances justified making an exception and treatment was carried out.

In spite of the fact that this service of disinfestation is free it was only necessary to give treatment at 23 premises. The reason for spraying these premises is detailed as follows:-

Ants	...	...	...	4
Bees	...	...	...	3
Beetles		...	...	9
Bed Bugs		...	...	4
Cockroaches	...		...	1
Precautionary measure for bugs	...		...	2

(12) RAG, FLOCK AND OTHER FILLINGS MATERIALS ACT, 1951

One factory is registered under the above Act and the standards continue to be very high.

(13) PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

There are three licensed premises and these are satisfactory.

(14) CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL ACT, 1953
Registration of Hairdressers and Barbers

There are now 43 hairdressers' and barbers' premises registered with the Authority, this being an increase of 3 on last year's figures. It was only possible to make four inspections during the year.

(15) CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

The major industry in the district is the chemical industry and whilst H.M. Alkali Inspectorate is primarily responsible for the control of most of their discharges to atmosphere, the District Council Public Health Department has certain responsibilities and it is pleasing to record the close liaison which exists between the two departments.

The control of other industrial sources is primarily the responsibility of the District Council's Public Health Department. Difficulties arise in exercising this control purely because of the time-consuming nature of the observation work which is its basis.

It has been necessary to meet representatives of British Railways in connection with nuisances caused by goods traffic passing through the area, and on occasions by nuisances caused at the engine sheds at Northwich Station. There is a considerable amount of goods traffic passing through this district, and on one part of the line there is a steep incline which calls for heavier firing of locomotives to raise the necessary amount of steam to enable the traffic to overcome the gradient. At the Northwich Station there is a goods depot, and on occasions there are often around a dozen engines raising steam. Unfortunately, starting from cold smoke is often created, at times being excessive due to carelessness on the part of the operators.

It is likely that in the coming months the Council will give consideration to the possibilities of creating the first clean air zones in the town. The adoption of this policy would be a major contribution to the health of the district. Although it is true that with present knowledge most of the sulphur dioxide will remain, the elimination of domestic smoke from the air we breathe will remove a significant contributory factor in the production of Lung Cancer and Chronic Bronchitis.

In order that a reasonably accurate picture of the air pollution in the town can be obtained it is recommended that the Council consider the purchase of at least one sulphur dioxide and smoke recording apparatus to be used in conjunction with the Standard Deposit gauge.

(16) MORTUARY

The Mortuary consists of a post-mortem room, refrigerator with space for three bodies, waiting room and chapel or viewing room. It is available for the whole of the Urban District and for the adjoining parishes of the Northwich Rural District.

During the year the number of bodies going into the Mortuary was 123, and of these 62 were for post-mortem examination.

At Christmas the Mortuary was used for 17 bodies which were brought from the railway crash between Winsford and Crewe. It was possible during this time to deal with a very unpleasant task in a manner which was appreciated by relatives who had need to visit the mortuary.

A regular supply of floral plants is available for the Chapel from the Council's Parks Department.

(17) FACTORIES ACT, 1961

The main industry of Northwich is the chemical industry. The headquarters of the Alkali Division of Imperial Chemical Industries being in the town. Their three chemical works in the Urban District are at Wallerscote, Winnington, and Lostock. The General Chemical Division of the Company operates the Wade Works at Northwich.

Other industries of the town include a steel works, foundry, ship-building yards, leather works, carpet factory and clothing factories.

There have been no new industries established in Northwich during the current year, but available land that is likely to be suitable is being prepared in order to accommodate firms who request information regarding suitable sites in the district.

There is a shortage in the town of light industry suitable for the employment of female labour. As a result of re-organisation and mechanisation carried out by the main industrial concern redundancies are arising, and no suitable alternative employment is readily available. This is a matter of serious concern to the local authority and all possible steps are being taken to improve the position.

Regarding the enforcement of the above Act, no detailed inspections have been possible. There is close co-operation with the Factory Inspector and any complaints that arise are dealt with.

Outworkers

During 1962 there were 2 persons employed as outworkers, one person was engaged on altering wearing apparel and the other making ladies' clothing.

(18) SHOPS ACT, 1950

The responsibility for the administration of the Shops Act can roughly be divided into two parts; (1) relating to sanitary conveniences, ventilation and temperature of shops, this is the responsibility of a District Council Health Department, and (2) those provisions of the Shops Act other than for the health and comfort of workers; for example:- half-day closing, permitted hours of sale, etc., which can be the responsibility of the County Council or the District Council. This Authority is responsible for the administration of the Shops Act in its entirety.

A new Shops and Offices Bill has been published. This is important and necessary legislation, but it will give rise to a considerable amount of work.

(19) SLUM CLEARANCE

In 1962 two areas were put forward as Clearance Areas and subsequently the Council decided to deal with them by means of Compulsory Orders.

The areas in question were :-

Jubilee Street (No.1) Clearance Area	-	12 houses
Waterloo Road (No.1) Clearance Area	-	2 houses

A Public Inquiry was held in respect of Jubilee Street Area and subsequently this was confirmed with modifications. In the case of Waterloo Road no Public Inquiry was held and the Order was confirmed by the Minister.

During 1962 Highfield Terrace and Foundry Place Clearance Areas were demolished and the sites cleared.

Individual Unfit Houses

5 houses were represented as individual unfit houses and made subject to Closing Orders.

(20) SUB-STANDARD HOUSES

Since the war this Authority has carried out a considerable amount of work in connection with slum clearance and in dealing with sub-standard houses. Since 1945, 567 houses have been dealt with as being individually unfit, and 79 houses have been dealt with in Clearance Areas. Further progress is being made in this connection, but this only deals with one aspect of the problem. It is felt that probably one of the biggest difficulties facing the Council is the way in which sub-standard houses should be dealt with. There are large numbers of houses which are really too good structurally to demolish, but which require considerable repairs and improvements to bring up to an acceptable present-day standard. It appears that economically the landlord is unable to do this work. Unfortunately the alternatives of demolition or closing do not produce a satisfactory solution as many of the adjoining houses are in good condition mainly because they are owner-occupied. If the sub-standard houses are closed all the houses in the area inevitably deteriorate. Even if this aspect is ignored there remains the problem of re-housing the tenants of the closed properties due to the shortage of building land. If one were to take really drastic action and clear complete terraces of unfit and fit houses, many of the cleared sites would not lend themselves to any future re-development. One answer to this problem is for the Council to secure the improvement of this type of property. The Ministry of Housing and Local Government in Circular 42/62, extracts of which are quoted below, brought to the attention of Councils the methods by which this could be achieved.

"Both the Department and the local authorities have so far relied mainly on general publicity to make landlords and tenants aware of the possibilities of improvement and the grants available. This has been useful and is well worth keeping up.

But the Minister is convinced that for a real impact local authorities must be prepared to make a systematic approach to the problem. This means tackling it street by street, or area by area; and it entails - especially at the outset - a great deal of work. But once the idea of

improvement takes hold it will spread. Two or three authorities have already started on area improvements in this way - with encouraging results.

The first thing is to select the streets or areas most worth improving. Perhaps the easiest is one containing sturdy, terraced or semi-detached Victorian houses, each of 5 or 6 rooms and good for another 20 or 30 years at least; but lacking hot water systems, bathroom, indoor W.C., etc. These houses are easily improved. But a good job can be made of smaller, less promising houses. What is very useful is if the street or area contains several more or less identical houses, so that improvement of one demonstrates what can be done to the others. Having selected the street or area the authority must then tell all the owners and tenants that they want to get all the houses capable of it improved. If the houses are much of a pattern, and the authority can indicate what may be involved in the way of improvement (e.g. installation of a new back-boiler fire place, conversion of one of the bedrooms to bathroom and W.C., or building this over the back scullery, etc.) such guidance is bound to be helpful. It would be better still if they can get the owner and tenant of one house or pair of houses to provide a demonstration - on which figures of both the capital cost and the addition to the rent can be supplied.

There will be resistances. Owners may say they cannot raise their share of the capital cost; in such cases the authorities might offer to lend it. They do not know how to go about getting plans out; the authority can tell them - or perhaps provide type plans. Tenants may have to be temporarily housed elsewhere during work; the authority can help. Elderly tenants do not want to be disturbed - or tenants of any age may be reluctant to pay more rent; they may need persuading. A family may be too cramped if a bedroom is turned into a bathroom; this may be met by the authority offering to rehouse in return for nominating a smaller family. It can be very hard work - but it is worth it.

At the end of it there may still be some owners who for one reason or another are unwilling to improve their houses; although the houses are perfectly capable of being improved at reasonable cost. If they are willing to sell such houses to the authority so that they can do the improvement the Minister will readily sanction the loan; and if they are not willing the Minister will be prepared to consider the use of compulsory powers - especially if the houses are in streets or areas where other owners are carrying through improvements."

It is felt there is considerable scope for such action in the district. If taken, the living conditions of a large number of the inhabitants would be greatly improved.

(21) GRANTS FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF OLD HOUSES

Every encouragement is given by this Authority to the improvement of houses, either by Standard Grants or Discretionary Grants. If necessary, a loan is given to enable the owner to carry out his part of the work, so that lack of capital does not curb his desire to repair and improve his property. Up to now, however, only a relatively small number of houses which are suitable for improvement have been improved and these are nearly all owner/occupied.

In dealing with grants the repair side is carried out under the control of the Health Department, whilst the improvement work is under the supervision of the Surveyor's Department.

£1,542. 12. 3d. was paid in respect of 15 Standard Grants, and £5,000. 17. 4d. in respect of 23 Discretionary Grants.

736 visits were made during the year in connection with housing.

(22) RENT ACT, 1957

The Rent Act has not achieved, in this area, anything from a Public Health point of view.

During the year only one Certificate of Disrepair was issued.

(23) COUNCIL HOUSES IN NORTHWICH

The position with regard to dwelling accommodation provided by Northwich U.D.C. is based on information from the Housing Department, and the position on 1st April, 1962, was as follows:-

<u>Types of Accommodation</u>		<u>Pre-War</u>	<u>Post-War</u>	<u>Purchased Properties</u>	<u>Total</u>
Houses	- 1 Bedroom	14	-	-	14
	- 2 Bedrooms	24	302	14(a)	340
	- 3 Bedrooms	224	879	5	1108
	- 4 Bedrooms	25	24	1	50
	- 5 Bedrooms	-	5	-	5
	- 6 Bedrooms	14	-	-	14
Flats	- 1 Bedroom	-	10	-	10
	- 2 Bedrooms	-	34(b)	2	36
	- 3 Bedrooms	-	11(c)	-	11
	- 4 Bedrooms	-	4(d)	-	4
Bungalows	- 1 Bedroom	-	67	-	67
	- 2 Bedrooms	-	115	-	115
	- 3 Bedrooms	-	1	-	1
Temporary Bungalows - 2 Bedrooms		-	50	-	50
		301	1502	22	1825

Notes: (a) Includes 11 houses scheduled for demolition
 (b) Includes 4 2-Bed flats over shops
 (c) 11 3-Bed flats over shops
 (d) 4 4-Bed flats over shops

The waiting list of applicants for Council accommodation numbered 446 in December, 1962, and the accommodation required by these applicants is as follows:-

74 persons requiring flats or bungalows
 104 " " two bedroom houses
 192 " " three bedroom houses
 76 single persons requiring flats or bungalows

During the year the following types of houses were erected in the Urban District:-

Dwellings built by private enterprise	Nil
Dwellings erected by Local Authority:	
Houses - 3 beds.	10
Bungalows - 2 beds.	28
Total	<u>38</u>

S E C T I O N VIINSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD(1) MILK
The Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959

The responsibility for the issuing of licences for Special Designated milk is that of the Cheshire County Council Health Department, and in order to be able to carry out this responsibility all the sampling of milk is carried out by County Officials. Copies of the results of this sampling are sent to the Health Department, and all the 178 samples were satisfactory.

The registration of dairies other than dairy farms, and of distributors of milk is, however, the responsibility of the Urban District Council. There being 49 distributors and one dairy registered, but there are no milk producers within the district.

(2) ICE-CREAM
Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1959

There is only one ice-cream manufacturer in the district and the cold mix method is used. There is, however, a new type of ice-cream which is made on the vehicle from which it is sold. This will be the subject of further investigation to ensure that every possible precaution is taken to maintain the necessary standards required in this pleasantly acceptable food.

The number of samples taken during the year was 22, and these were placed in the Provisional Grades as follows :-

Provisional Grade 1	...	19
Provisional Grade 2	...	2
Provisional Grade 4	...	1

Although there are no legal standards laid down in connection with samples of ice-cream, it is considered that Grades 1 and 2 are satisfactory and Grades 3 and 4 are not satisfactory, the conclusions however to be based on the results of two or three samples. In the case of the one sample which was provisionally graded 4 repeat samples proved satisfactory.

(3) NUMBER OF FOOD PREMISES BY TYPES

General Grocery and Greengrocery Shops	...	...	84
General Grocery with Outdoor Licence	...	...	8
Butchers' Shops	...	...	22
Fish Frying Shops	...	...	10
Wet Fish Shops	...	...	3
Bakers & Confectioners	...	...	16
Dairies	...	...	1
Cafes and Restaurants	...	...	13
Licensed Premises	...	...	27
Canteens	...	...	20

(4) REGISTRATION OF PREMISES USED FOR THE MANUFACTURE, STORAGE OR SALE OF FOOD UNDER SECTION 18 OF THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Purpose for which Registered	Premises on Register 1961	Added to Register 1962	Removed from Register 1962	Total on Register 1962
Sale and Storage of Ice-Cream	88	-	1	87
Manufacture of Ice-Cream	1	-	-	1
Manufacture of Preserved foods, etc. (mainly sausages, brawn & potted meat)	14	-	3	11
Fish Frying	11	-	1	10
TOTALS	114	-	5	109

(5) SLAUGHTERHOUSES ACT, 1958

The three private slaughterhouses in Northwich continue to be used fully, and all are maintained in a good condition. Two of the slaughterhouses have refrigerated cooling rooms attached. The other one is situated at the rear of the butcher's business premises and adequate refrigeration is available in addition to good cooling facilities. 100% meat inspection is carried out although this often entails evening and Saturday meat inspection, with occasional Sunday work. The meat from these slaughterhouses is of good quality and no cattle showed evidence of tuberculosis. The major proportion of meat condemned consisted of offal, and of this offal the greatest proportion were livers. During the year 998 visits were made in connection with meat inspection.

Meat Inspection

The following table gives details of the number of animals slaughtered together with details of the post mortem inspection.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
No. killed and inspected	609	613	14	3851	2638
<u>All Diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	1	-	1	2	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	32	78	-	127	56
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis or Cysticerci	5.4%	12.7%	7.1%	3.3%	2.19%

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	8
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	.30%
<u>Cysticercosis</u>	-	-	-	-	-

(6) CONDEMNATION OF MEAT

The total weight of meat condemned was 1 ton 8 cwts 1 qr. 9 lbs. and this was disposed of to reputable firms for processing.

(7) SLAUGHTERMEN'S LICENCES

The number of licensed slaughtermen in the district is 18. It was found necessary during the year to revoke the licence of a slaughterman. In view of all the circumstances it was decided not to take further action.

(7) FOOD HYGIENE

The Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960

Inspections in connection with the above Regulations are carried out as and when it is possible. There is little doubt that food hygiene will reach a higher level by education than by compulsion. Good premises with first-class fixtures and good washing facilities, are essential if any standard is to be achieved, but unless the personnel employed in the food trade are sufficiently educated to be knowledgeable of their responsibilities, a gap will exist and food hygiene will suffer. In many cases customers can be of considerable help by their own personal habits, particularly in the handling of food which they may not themselves buy.

A course in Food Hygiene has been commenced at the Mid-Cheshire College of Further Education. Students attending this course are able to qualify for the Certificate in the Hygiene of Food Retailing and Catering of the Royal Society of Health. It is hoped that sufficient interest will be maintained in the district in order that these classes can be continued. Undoubtedly the subject matter which is taught enables the personnel receiving the tuition to carry out their

duties to a high degree of efficiency.

Progress is being made in connection with the provision of a new Market Hall, and it is expected that the construction of these premises will be commenced in 1963. In the meantime, with the co-operation that exists between the Market Superintendent and the Health Department, market tenants are made aware of the necessity to maintain a good standard of hygiene, and there is every reason to feel that in spite of the structural condition of the Market Hall the standard maintained in this sphere of trading is satisfactory.

(8) CONDEMNATION OF FOOD

In the event of any trader having unfit food the Health Department is notified, an inspection made and the food voluntarily surrendered after a certificate has been given. The unsound food is disposed of either in the form of pig food or by burial on the refuse tip. Before disposal on the tip the food is disinfected to render it unpalatable.

The amount of food involved in 1962 was 15 cwts. 0 qrs. 7 lbs. and made up as follows :-

Tins of Veal, Ham & Tongue	...	...	267 lbs.
Tins of Corned Beef	...	...	60 lbs.
Tins of Luncheon Meat	...	...	28 lbs.
Other assorted tins	...	...	455 lbs.
Apricots	...	...	11 lbs.
Onions	...	...	250 lbs.
Pears	...	...	40 lbs.
Peaches	...	...	30 lbs.
Grapes	...	...	340 lbs.
Apricot Pulp	...	...	120 lbs.
Cream	...	...	33 lbs.
Dried Fruit	...	...	30 lbs.
Chicken	...	...	3 lbs.
Butter	...	...	20 lbs.
TOTAL			1,687 lbs.

(9) BAKEHOUSES

There are 10 bakehouses in the district and these are satisfactory.

(10) OTHER FOODS

The County Council Weights and Measures Inspectors took samples of 57 varied articles of food in the Northwich Urban District during 1962.

The following 4 samples were not up to standard :-

<u>Sample</u>	<u>Result of Analysis</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Sausage (Pork)	Declared to contain, but not containing, preservative	Caution given
Milk (Channel Island)	Deficient in milk fat to the extent of 2.5%	Caution given
Eucalyptus Oil	Contaminated with water to the extent of 0.4%	Caution given
Milk (Fresh)	Deficient in fat to the extent of 3.3%	Caution given

S E C T I O N VIIRECREATIONAL FACILITIES

There are many facilities for recreation in this district. There is no doubt that the relaxation enjoyed as a result of these facilities contributes to the general health of the community.

The facilities provided by the Local Authority consist of tennis, and bowling, with various playgrounds for young children. The district is fortunate in that the main industrial firm provides facilities which include bowling, tennis, archery, Rugby football, and cricket, besides other indoor sports. In order to enjoy these facilities it is not necessary for a person to be employed by this firm, it merely being necessary to become a member of the appropriate club or section.

In addition there is a Rowing Club and Cricket Club and the rivers afford good facilities for fishing.

F. SEYMOUR

Medical Officer of Health

T. BAINES

Chief Public Health Inspector

ANNEX to Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the year 1962
for the Urban District of Northwich in the County of Cheshire

PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT 1961

PART I of the Act

1. INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH

PREMISES	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities (Factories with no mechanical power)	4	10	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authorities (Factories with mechanical power)	90	17	-	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	94	27	-	-

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

PARTICULARS	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	-	1	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	1	1	-	1	-

